

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/603,051

Examiner

Michael P. Stafira

Applicant(s)

SEGALL ET AL.

Art Unit

2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10/3/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-21,24-29,32 and 33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-21, 24-29, 32, 33 are allowed over the prior art of record.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 4, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an inspection probe for inspecting a surface finish of a machined surface having a computer system including software that compares the detected scattered light to a scattered light signature from a first-type finishing mark and to a scattered light signature from a second-type finishing mark and determines a condition of the surface finish, wherein the machined surface is a cylinder bore for an engine block, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 4. Claims 2, 3, 5-21 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 4.

Regarding claim 26, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a method for inspecting the surface finish of a machined surface having the steps of determining a signature of the detected scattered laser beam light; and determining a condition of the machined surface from the signature, wherein the machined surface is a cylinder bore and, wherein determining a signature includes comparing a scattered light signature from a first-type finishing mark to a scattered light signature from a second-type finishing mark, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 26. Claims 24, 25 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 26.

Regarding claim 27, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a reconfigurable inspection apparatus for inspecting the surface finish of a plurality of machined surfaces in a part

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having a reconfigurable multi-spindle apparatus having a plurality of spindles; a plurality of inspection probes rotatably and movably supported on corresponding spindles and a computer system including software that compares the detected scattered light to a scattered light signature from a first-type finishing mark and to a scattered light signature from a second-type finishing mark and determines a condition of the surface finish, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 27. Claims 28, 29 are allowed by the virtue of dependency on the allowed claim 27.

Regarding claim 32, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an inspection probe for inspecting the surface finished of a manufactured surface having a computer system including software that compares the detected scattered light to a scattered light signature from a first-type finishing mark and to a scattered light signature from a second-type finishing mark and determines a condition of the surface finish, wherein the first and second finishing marks correspond to finishing marks before and after a removal of material, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 32.

Regarding claim 33, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious an inspection probe for inspecting the surface finished of a manufactured surface having a computer system including software that compares the detected scattered light to a scattered light signature from a first-type finishing mark and to a scattered light signature from a second-type finishing mark and determines a condition of the surface finish, wherein the first and second finishing marks correspond to finishing marks before and after an addition of material, and in combination with the other recited limitations of claim 33.

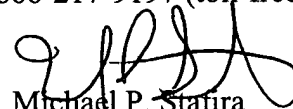
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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Stafira whose telephone number is 571-272-2430. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/10 Schedule Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Toatley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Michael P. Stafira
Primary Examiner
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December 6, 2005